



Guest Editor Economic Symposium

The Phoenician Resort

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Friday, November 7, 2014

Thank you, Rick.

And, thank you all for that very warm welcome.

**I'm honored to have been a Guest Editor for
IN BUSINESS MAGAZINE ... twice!**

**And I especially want to recognize you, Rick, for your service
as Chairman of the Marketing Committee for Workforce
Arizona Council.**

**You've been a wonderful partner and contributor to Arizona's
economic success, and I'm so very appreciative of all you've
done for this great state.**

As you all know, my service to the people of Arizona – to the state I love – is drawing to a close.

My mission has always been the same: To serve each and every one of you with honesty and integrity, never betraying the trust that was placed on my shoulders.

I'm often asked what was my proudest moment.

Well, beyond becoming John's wife – and mother of his children – when I think back on all that we've done together – I think my proudest moment is when we moved Arizona from its dark economic times, and forged the Arizona Comeback.

Arizona is a success story ... not because of what I've done – but because of what we've done together.

This room is filled with people who've played a critical role in helping bring Arizona back from the brink.

Think about this: When I became Governor, Arizona had the worst state budget deficit in the nation.

But, we rolled up our sleeves and went to work.

As a result, we have brought Arizona from a \$3 billion deficit – to a more balanced budget – and a restored Rainy Day Fund.

Of course, we all recognize that enormous challenges are still ahead.

But I'm proud that we've laid a sound and sturdy budget foundation for the next administration – that of Governor-Elect Doug Ducey – on which to build and carry on Arizona's Comeback!

While the economy has been our Number One focus these past few years, I am enormously proud of the historic work we have done to address several other critical priorities of my administration:

We've raised our education standards – demanding accountability ... rewarding success ... and preparing future generations to be leaders in our global economy.

We enacted a Medicaid Restoration plan that saves rural and safety net hospitals from devastating levels of uncompensated care ... injecting almost \$1.6 billion annually into the state's economy ... and protecting the more than 267,000 Arizonans who risk losing crucial, cost-effective health care.

Just this September ... after more than 30 years of contentious legal battles ... we finally reached a settlement in the *Arnold V. Sarn* lawsuit.

Also this year, we got rid of the dysfunctional Child Protective Services and created the new Department of Child Safety – a permanent, stand-alone agency with the express mission of safeguarding Arizona's abused and neglected children.

We've cracked down on human trafficking by strengthening penalties and working to further protect and assist victims of trafficking.

We've transformed the personnel system, the procurement system, and our pension program to improve the effectiveness of State Government and save taxpayer money.

And, while I've fought to demand that the federal government fulfill its duty to secure the border and restore integrity to our immigration system, enhancing Arizona's cross-border economic relationship with Mexico has been one of my highest interests as governor.

In fact, just last month we opened the Arizona State Trade and Investment Office in Mexico City, strengthening and securing economic ties with our largest trading partner.

These are all things that I'm very proud of.

You know, in all of my time in public life, I've learned that freedom is not the right to do as you choose ... but it's the responsibility of choosing to do what is right.

And, in choosing to do what is right, I've been blessed to have all of you as good mentors and models, showing me

what political integrity looks like; showing me that passion and spirituality go hand in hand with public policy.

I've also been truly blessed and well-served by capable and committed colleagues ... and by a hard-working, talented, and effective staff ... including all the courageous DPS officers who have kept us safe all these years.

And, so, I will be saying farewell soon.

But you will know where to find me come January ...

In my garden ... trimming ... pruning ... cultivating ...

You see? Not much will really have changed for me.

I'll still be working to make things better ... to make things grow ... and blossom ... and thrive ... in the state I love.

... So, that perhaps history might one day say of Jan Brewer – for all who cherish Arizona ...

“SHE DID ALL THINGS IN HER LIFE ... THAT SHE COULD.”

Thank you ... And thank you for allowing me to be your Governor.

May God bless you and your families ... and may God always bless and guide the great state of Arizona!